

Official

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For the paragraph beginning page 8, line 12:

Returning to FIG. 1, upon a request for delivery of programming to a user, the program extents are recalled from the disk drives by the access controller 108. The extents are buffered in buffer 110. Since the server 102 is simultaneously processing and fulfilling requests from many users, the access controller 108 interleaves the extent accesses of the various requested movies. Although the extents for a requested movie are generally accessed sequentially, they are not accessed contiguously. As such, a given movie's extents are placed in the buffer 110 interspersed with other movie's extents. In fact, to minimize buffer size, an extent for a given movie is not added to the buffer 110 until the previous extent has been read out of the buffer 110 and sent to the user.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please CANCEL claim 1.

Please ADD new claims 2-18 as follows:

2. (newly added) A method for storing and accessing a plurality of programs in memory, said programs having various constant bit rates, comprising the steps of:
- associating each program with a constant bit rate;
 - computing an extent size for each program from the respective constant bit rate associated with each program;
 - determining a quantity of packets associated with the extent size;
 - rounding the computed extent size up to a next whole packet of data;
 - identifying extents that require a null packet to be added to the extent;
 - inserting the null packet into the identified extents; and
 - storing the packets associated with each extent in said memory.
3. (newly added) The method of claim 2 wherein said memory is a disk drive array comprising a plurality of disk drives.

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4. (newly added) The method of claim 3 wherein said storing step further comprises the step of striping the extents across said disk drive array.

5. (newly added) The method of claim 2 wherein the plurality of programs comprises a plurality of packetized data streams where each data stream has a different bit rate.

6. (newly added) The method of claim 5 wherein the packetized data stream comprise packets of encoded video information.

7. (newly added) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of computing the extent size further comprises the step of multiplying the constant bit rate associated with each program times a respective service interval.

8. (newly added) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of instructions, the plurality of instructions including instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the steps comprising:

associating each program with a constant bit rate;

computing an extent size for each program from the respective constant bit rate associated with each program;

determining a quantity of packets associated with the extent size;

rounding the computed extent size up to a next whole packet of data;

identifying extents that require a null packet to be added to the extent;

inserting the null packet into the identified extents; and

storing the packets associated with each extent in said memory.

9. (newly added) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein said memory is a disk drive array comprising a plurality of disk drives.

10. (newly added) The computer-readable medium of claim 9 wherein said storing step further comprises the step of striping the extents across said disk drive array.

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11. (newly added) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the plurality of programs comprises a plurality of packetized data streams where each data stream has a different bit rate.

12. (newly added) The computer-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the packetized data stream comprise packets of encoded video information.

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13. (newly added) The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein said step of computing the extent size further comprises the step of multiplying the constant bit rate associated with each program times a respective service interval.

14. (newly added) Apparatus for storing and accessing a plurality of programs in memory, said programs having various constant bit rates, comprising:

means for associating each program with a constant bit rate and computing an extent size for each program from the respective constant bit rate associated with each program;

means for determining a quantity of packets associated with the extent size and rounding the computed extent size up to a next whole packet of data;

means for identifying extents that require a null packet to be added to the extent and inserting the null packet into the identified extents; and

means for storing the packets associated with each extent in said memory.

15. (newly added) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said storing means further comprises striping the extents across said disk drive array.

16. (newly added) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the plurality of programs comprises a plurality of packetized data streams where each data stream has a different bit rate.